GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5922
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that studies abroad indicate that incinerators emit super toxic chemicals, causing health hazards;

(b) if so, whether any such study has been conducted in India;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the environment from such toxic chemicals?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): Incinerators, if not designed and operated in a scientific manner,may emit highly toxic chemicals such as dioxins and furans.

(b) & (c): No comprehensive study has been carried out to inventorise emission of dioxins and furans.

(d): The Biomedical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 notifiedby the Government of India, contain provisions, interalia, for regulating the use of incinerators in the country for disposal of biomedical wastes. Under these Rules, incineration of chlorinated plastics has been prohibited. Only double chambered incinerators under controlled temperature conditions and with necessary pollution control devices are allowed under the Rules. The operating and emission standards for incinerators have also been prescribed as a part of these Rules.